

"In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" John 16:33b

Periodical Message (April 2021)

A Word from us,

I believe our peace and contentment always depend upon our resignation into God's hands, no matter what our circumstance are or what we are facing. I love what the psalmist writes "Delight thyself also in the LORD/Jehovah; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart" Psalm 37:4.

If you've fully resigned yourself into God's hands, then you're able to endure any and all hardships under all circumstances; neither the Corona, nor the deception of the world can shake you. You'll seem as 'Super-natural' to others – and THAT IS, whom God meant you to be!

Yeah, Your Father's desire is for you to be able to go about your daily business without fear or anxiety, totally trusting in His care; be encourage to remember THIS and to live your life, always fixing your eyes on Him – the Author and Finisher of our faith.

Yours in the Lord, Salman

A Word according to the Guidance of the Holy Spirit

Power from on high,

The message was delayed for a purpose and we were praying the whole time concerning the Church of the Living God and the world and what is happening daily around each and every believer worldwide. The waiting of the faithful for the 'Power from on high' after the Ascension of Christ, could be compared to our waiting for the Second Coming of Christ. Indeed, today many believers are more eager to leave the world and its misery, than those gathered at the Upper Room waiting for the 'Promise of the Father'! Little has changed from the Early Church; this same concern was on the mind and hearts of the early disciples. So please let's read from the Book of Acts: "When they therefore were come together, they asked of Him, saying 'Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?' And He said unto them 'It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" Acts 1:6-8. WE notice that our Lord Jesus did NOT answer His disciples directly; rather, He told them that there was a more important consideration for His Church.

1. 'It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power'—THIS statement is telling you and me to let God do things HIS way, because He is Mighty and All-Wise God. Everything was put in HIS own power and NOT in yours and mine!

I know there are many murmurers in the Church today than any other time, but we supposed to surrender, by our own freewill, to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to guide and use us as 'witnesses to His (Jesus')

resurrection'. I have seen many believers putting themselves into trouble, because they were trying to satisfy others by giving them the wrong 'explanation'. Yes, it is written that we have the mind of Christ "For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ" 1 Corinthians 2:16 -- but NOW we only 'Know by part'. Our Lord Jesus said '...It is not for you to know the times or the seasons...' – though the Holy Spirit COULD reveal to us '...things to come'. We should accept the fact the ONLY God knows the times and the dates; if any one claims to know the exact times and dates of things, like the Second Coming of Christ, then he is far away from the truth. Nowhere in the Bible it is written that we, as new-born believers had been given the ability to know EXACT times and dates; it is ONLY by the Holy Spirit and ONLY if HE WILLS, then He could reveal things to us...for a purpose. Like many of you, I would like to know exactly what will happen tomorrow in order to 'be ready' but I accept what the Lord Jesus said. I believe agreeing with what the Bible says could help us concentrate more about Jesus, what He went through and why He had to go through it, while talking to those who do not believe.

- 2. '...the Holy Ghost is come upon you'—Though THIS was mentioned after the third point, it was the culmination of the whole waiting for ten long days in Jerusalem AFER the Ascension of the Lord Jesus. The promises from the Old Testament were fulfilled and God, the Father, poured down His Holy Spirit upon ALL flesh, but only a small number of believers were baptized by the Holy Spirit! Over the years I heard many preaching about Pentecost and most of them were talking about it, as if it were happening ONLY upon those 120 persons waiting in Jerusalem. I was thinking about this matter for a long time, in fact as long as I am a believer. From the very first years of my believing that question was there, until one day I received the answer. It was and might sound very strange, but I believe that was the reality back then on that First Pentecost: The Holy Spirit was poured down on ALL flesh, like in the Flood in Noah's time. But ONLY those who had faith received the Promise of the Father; their faith was the main factor why they received the Holy Spirit and He indwelled them.
- 3. 'Ye shall receive power'—THIS was the result of the outpouring of the Holy Ghose upon ALL flesh, where those who were revived and made to be Children of God, like their brother Jesus "Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God" John 20:17

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The Bible mentions around 120 people were baptized, including Jesus brothers and His mother, the Virgin Mary on that glorious Pentecost Day. Yes, they were to be witnesses to His resurrection, confirming ALL what He has said before; just think of what He was telling those two from Emmaus. Or when He explained the Scriptures to the Disciples after His resurrection. Add to it the fact that He was preparing food for them, eating with them and conquering Physical Laws by passing through the closed door (Or wall)! From the Gospel of Luke we read:" And said unto them 'Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued/clothed with power from on high" Luke 24:46-49

How many believers are witnessing to the world about THAT? When was the last time we stood in front of a crowed and witnessed to them about Jesus and what really happened to Him? Is the Church busy with witnessing about that or busy with worldly things, explaining things about the so-called 'Pandemic' or 'COVID-19'?

When the world is bombarding us with millions of lies daily, we should NOT be moved, but always remember our mission: We are called to be witnesses of Jesus, informing the world about Him and proclaiming Salvation in His name. Pentecost just passed and our 24/7 Prayer Team Jesus Highland Prayer House-JHPH was praying that the Gracious God would touch those searching hearts and let the glorious light of the Gospel shine IN them. We encourage you to join this prayer, because we believe that our loving God uses every opportunity to reach out and revive those Seekers for the Truth. Of course life is not linear and things are NOT going perfectly as we wish; it is like climbing a mountain; there's a period of life when we're on the incline and there's a period when we're on the decline. On the incline, the climb is tough but we're full of energy and every new height brings inspiring vistas. But sooner or later, we begin to wonder 'How much further is it to the top?' And, frequently, we mistake a

lower elevation for the summit; but when we reach it, we're disappointed to find we've still got a long way to go. This is the moment when the enemy strikes and offers us the 'Park of Good Intentions'. Yes, it might seem enough for many to be where they are, but are YOU where the Lord wants you to be and where you SHOULD be? The outpouring of the Holy Spirit changed everything in the lives of the Disciples and those who waited in Jerusalem for the Promise of the Father. They were absolutely changed, no more those frightened people hiding behind closed doors and fearing for their lives. No, the Bible tells us that they boldly preached the Gospel and miracles and wonders were following them and the Holy Spirit confirming the Word they were speaking. Just few examples are here:

- 1. "Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them" Acts 8:5.
- 2. "And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans" Acts 8:25.
- **3.** "And when they were at Salamis, **they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews**: and they had also John to their minister" **Acts 13:5**
- 4. "And there they preached the gospel" Acts 14:7
- 5. "And when they had preached the gospel to that city..." Acts 14:21

I was talking about climbing up a mountain; let me tell you brother that I've been tempted time and again to ask a descending climber 'How much further to the top?' But I almost always resist that temptation. I want the other hiker to think I'm an old pro, that I've been this way many times before. But in real life, there are no such return trips. It's a first-time experience for all of us. Some are tempted to ask the question 'But don't we come down the same trail we earlier hiked up?' Well, yes, but we will be looking in a different direction; the descent can be like hiking an entirely different trail. On the way up we were focusing on all the heights to be conquered, but on the way down, we enjoy the vistas far more. This is how the Spirit is taking us up and down, using all means to glorify Jesus.

I know for sure that my resistance to humbly ask a descending climber about what lies ahead bears a striking resemblance to a characteristic of every new generation; we would generally rather assume than ask. We elevate the information we read in the trail guide brochure above the real-life experience of the descenders. It is every new generation's way...but why? Do we believe actually that we're going to find a different mountain than they did? Do we assume the rules of life will be different for us?

There are still cultures in the world in which the seasoned adventurers of life are valued for their wisdom; that wisdom from above which defers from the 'knowledge' of the world. I am praying and maybe, some day our culture in the so-called Civilized World, will return to the tried and true traditions and values that made us great, and ditch our doomed social experiments. I want you to remember the Pentecost, and what did it COST; all was harmonic, well-timed and well-executed through the wisdom of God.

We are travelers and witnesses in this world and there is one sacred text that gives essential information, which every traveler needs. It's the Holy Scripture and it is filled with the life experiences of seasoned saints; let it be your guide. Hear what the Psalmist wrote: "Your word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light to my path" Psalm 119:105 – be encouraged to follow...by the way there is ONE seasoned Traveler above all others whom we should consult. He's hiked their bleakest mountains and scaled deepest ravines; He's suffered every conceivable affliction that we will ever have to face – and many that we never will. He's our Lord Jesus Christ – who knows what lies ahead and can sympathize with our every suffering. For He knows by personal experience what awaits us on His path; the Holy Spirit was poured down to guide us through the storm...and stormy waters, and not only to give us 'The Gifts of the Holy Spirit'!

Prayer Ideas

- 1. Dear Father in heaven, though I may not value humility, wisdom, or life experience as I should, please instill them into my being. And until I learn them, please guard my steps and keep me from disaster; oh, please help me to fix my eyes on Jesus and follow in His footsteps. Amen.
- **2.** Lord Jesus, without your sacrifices and the forgiveness of our sin, we would be but miserable sinners waiting for hell to swallow us. Once I read what C.S. Lewis wrote: "Forgiveness is a lovely idea until you have to forgive someone" Nothing could be truer, still I want to cry to you, LORD, help us to continue forgiving others DAILY, at every moment we are wronged and to LOVE. Yes, it seems impossible to forgive, even those believers standing with us during the Service, but Lord we are nothing more than

forgiven sinners...made royals by YOUR choice. HELP O, Lord, that the Power of Forgiveness and Love become stronger than grudges and hate. In your precious name Jesus, we pray.

- 3. Many believers think that life and living will be an 'easy ride' because the world is suggesting it to us every day; help your people oh, Lord, to understand that we are living in a world that hated, persecuted and even crucified YOU. Open our eyes to identify with YOU and what you went through, than to identify with the world and its demonic ideas. Help, oh Jesus that we could see things from your perspective and not the world's and recognize that we are HATED because of your name. We pray that every believer on this earth would behave and conduct themselves like royals, but never identifying themselves with the world. We claim a holy touch from your Eternal Spirit to open our eyes and help us to discern what is YOURS and what is NOT yours. In your holy name we rebuke every confusion, confusing spirit and all that which is from the enemy.
- **4.** When Paul the Apostle preached the Word of God at Berea, some from Thessalonica came and stirred up the people against him; merciful Father, help us to STILL love and forgive such people when they cause us troubles. Help us to resist the temptation of 'paying them back' even when it seems justified. We want to be GOOD witnesses of Jesus Christ, preaching the Gospel with LOVE and proclaiming the Good News everywhere we go.
- **5.** Before, during and after the visit of Pope Francis to Iraq, the world was watching us, Christians in Iraq, hearing some news about our history and what we went through for two thousand years. May you, O, All-Wise God use this opportunity to reach out and touch the hearts of millions of people, who heard about or watched the visit and let the Light of the Gospel shin there. May this simple, but very moving moment in the history of the Christians in Iraq, be used to reestablish the bond-of-love among your people, but also to let the Cross be remembered as The Power of God. We pray that the experience gained through such visit would be used, even if on a lower scale, to encourage us to DAILY proclaim the name of Jesus upon Iraq and to CLAIM Iraq for Christ before His Second Coming. Amen.
- **6.** Your people in Iraq were rejoicing in YOU on Palm Sunday and on Resurrection Day; grant O, Lord that their joy would continue through Your Presence, your mighty work and the confirmation of Your Word. We pray that you would reveal yourself to many, to let them know you as the One Who loves them, but also to convicts them of sin through your Holy Spirit. We NEED repentance in the midst of your people and we need pure hearts which love you by keeping your commandments; help O, Lord through your mighty moving in our midst.
- 7. There are many, even Preachers of the Word, who seem to be confused because of what is happening in the world; we pray that YOUR WORD will be preached and that Your Spirit will set people free. Cleanse, dear Lord, Your House and prepare those faithful for your Second Coming; we claim that Power from on High RIGHT NOW to boldly preach the Gospel to those who do not know you, to bring Good Tiding to the lost and to proclaim your name, which is above ALL names.
- **8.** As a Ministry we are facing a lot of challenges, Father, but we surrender and put everything in your hands; we have faith in you, Mighty God, that YOU will deliver us from all what is beseeching us, causing us loss of time and money and defaming our Ministry. Thank you for using our New Mission House for deliverance, preaching of the Word and sanctuary to those who need a place to stay. May you continue, blessed Lord, to bless our service and those whom we serve and to provide all needs. Amen.

Finally we encourage you in the name of Jesus to keep the Word, live the Calling and continue serving in a humble heart WITHOUT fear. Don't ever forget your joy in the Lord no matter what might happen---He will never fail you.

We also ask you, dear Saints, to forward our Messages to as many people as you can, whether believers or else with many thanks. We would love to visit you, if invited to your Church, Prayer Group or else and share our testimony with all the Saints or hear from you. Please let's know through an E-mail containing a phone number to send a message to or even call you back. We will be waiting for your Feedback or commentaries too. What did the Message tell you and what did the Holy Spirit teach you through it? If you want us to pray for you, or for somebody else, please let us know and we will pass the name/s over to our 24/7 Prayer Team-Jesus Highland Prayer House-JHPH.

Have a \\\^I^/// Blessed Day

"...I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me" Micah 7:7

Built on the Rock: JESUS CHRIST THE LORD

"Choose this day whom you will serve, As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" Joshua 24.15

Thank you for supporting International Christian Outreach Ministry and standing with us and the persecuted Christians in Iraq.